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S. ENGLAND BEGINS TO THAW

Gales Expected

London, Feb. 22.—Temperatures in Southern England rose slightly today as snowploughs and road gangs continued their all-night struggle to open blocked roads and force a way to villages, marooned in the severe snowstorms of the last three days.

A slow thaw began in the London area and the Southwest. But there were indications of more frost early tomorrow morning and motorists were warned to beware of treacherous surfaces.

The Air Ministry tonight gave warning of gales round the south and east coasts.

SEA FOAM FREEZES

In London, it was still freezing at midday but the mercury had climbed to 35 degrees Fahrenheit by 4 p.m., compared with 29 degrees yesterday and remained there for some hours.

Although there had been no snow on one point on the Norfolk coast, foam from receding tide froze hard at midday.

In South Devonshire, milk froze in churns while awaiting collection by the roadside, and on Dartmoor stocks of fodder were collected for transport to lonely parts of the Great Bleak Moor, where wild ponies congregated in bad weather.

Armoured cars, converted into snowploughs, three times opened the road between Hope Valley and Chapel En Le Frith, in the Peak district of Derbyshire, Central England, where coaches and taxis were stranded.—Reuter.

MOSCOW'S BLUE SKIES

Moscow, Feb. 22.—Moscow today enjoyed blue skies and several hours of sunshine with the exceptionally mild temperature of less than two degrees below zero Centigrade. A little snow fell, but Red Square and the main streets of the capital were almost free of snow, except for slush from earlier falls.—Reuter.

TWO-WAY TRADE WITH JAPAN

Canberra, Feb. 22.—Prime Minister Joseph Chifley announced today that Australia has arranged with the Supreme Command for Allied Powers (SCAP) for a limited resumption of two-way trade with Japan.

Hitherto licences had not been granted for importing Japanese goods because unused Sterling balances in SCAP accounts are convertible into dollars.

Australia now has agreed to permit some imports of raw silk, milling silk, rayon yarn and rayon textiles. All the proceeds will be used SCAP to purchase Australian wool.—Associated Press.

EDITORIAL

House Cleaning Needed

IF Nanking misses the significance of Mr. George Marshall's statement to the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the subject of American aid to China, it will be only because Chiang Kai-shek and his administrators find it impossible to stomach high level criticism. Mr. Marshall adopted what might appear to be a peculiar role: while chief supplicant for assistance to China, he made himself at the same time a most forthright public critic of the Nanking regime. Mr. Marshall is obviously aware that China cannot properly achieve an economic recovery until the civil war has been brought to a quick and successful end. Similarly he is gravely suspicious that the National Government, as at present constituted, is capable either of winning the war or of promoting a domestic programme that will stabilise the nation's economy. The same theme was developed more fully by the American Ambassador, Dr. Leighton Stuart, in an astonishingly outspoken speech last week, and it must surely now become apparent to the Generalissimo that the demerit of who for so many years have placed absolute confidence in him are rapidly developing a cynicism with regard to his Administration that can only be alleviated by some drastic, and at the same time constructive reform measures. The extreme rightists which combine to bring the Nanking regime into international

Infuriated Jews Kill And Wound British Troops

SEQUEL TO BOMB OUTRAGE

Jerusalem, Feb. 22.—The toll of British killed and wounded in Jerusalem reached 20 tonight as Jews thronged the streets yelling revenge against the British, who they blamed for the bomb outrage which wrecked the Jewish Ben Yehuda Street, causing a death-roll—according to hospital reports—of 45.

Rescue workers laboured under arc lights and car headlamps tonight in the rubble of four-storey buildings over the 100-yard area blasted by a dynamite-packed lorry at dawn today. As 1,000 men and women laboured in the wreckage, from which 60 badly injured had already been taken to hospital, reports came of attacks on British soldiers and another heavy explosion set the sirens wailing again.

Five British soldiers died and six were wounded when their armoured lorry was blown up by an electrically-dettonated mine. Later a British soldier was shot dead and another seriously wounded while they were being treated in hospital for injuries received when their lorry was blown up by a mine.

The gunman who entered the hospital was believed to be a Jew. Three more British servicemen were killed when Jews mortared their bullets in Jerusalem's Street of the Prophets.

Earlier today, in the fighting which broke out immediately after the explosion, when the cry "British murderers" went up among the angry Jews, two Royal Air Force men and a soldier were shot dead and an Army padre wounded when the Jews attacked every passing British vehicle.

TROOPS WITHDRAW

So critical did the situation become that British troops and police who had rushed to help in the rescue work had to be withdrawn for their own safety.

Three Arabs were killed and three injured when three mortar bombs fell on the Mishrah quarter, behind Jerusalem's central prison, tonight, it was officially stated.

Jewish fire directed at a police armoured car was silenced when the other armoured cars opened up with Bren guns near the Jewish Agency. Intense sporadic firing continued for some time.

Several Jews in the areas fringing the scene of the explosion were wounded and one was reported killed by gunfire.

The Jews were convinced that the British were responsible for the Ben Yehuda Street outrage, the greatest since the King David Hotel, British headquarters, was blasted on July 22, 1946, with the loss of more than 90 lives.

The police are searching for an armoured car seen speeding from the scene of the explosion towards Arab villages along the Jaffa Road.

UNOFFICIAL DEATH ROLL

According to reliable Jewish sources, the deathroll of the explosion was given tonight as 51 although official police figures remain at 32.

Mr. Guy Cox, the Exchange Telegraph correspondent in Palestine, who was earlier today reported to have been shot, died from injuries received in a car crash. It was officially reported here. He was 27. Local reports await from Zvi Leumi, spokesman for the Jewish Agency, which have been ordered by its "Commander-in-Chief," Menachem Begin.

The Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Council (Vaad Leumi) issued a joint statement tonight warning the Jewish community "not to complicate matters by taking the law into our own hands."

The statement said Jewish institutions were investigating today's outrage and were in contact with the authorities and Jewish representatives abroad.—Reuter.

JEWISH STATEMENT

Jerusalem, Feb. 22.—Following the emergency meeting of the Jewish Agency Executive, which took place after the explosion in the Jewish sector here today, a Jewish spokesman, Gershon Hirsch, announced: "I do not think there is anyone here who does not know the facts. According to reports from hospitals at this hour, there are 31 dead and 38 wounded."

He continued: "Eyewitnesses gave us statements in writing to the effect that they saw a number of Army trucks and an armoured police truck approach Ben Yehuda Street just before the explosion struck."

"People alighted from them, put a match to something, ran away and were picked up a little later by another vehicle. Eyewitnesses' evidence corroborates fully on one point, and that is, that the trucks were Army and police and that the people who alighted from them and put fire to something were in Army and police dress."

AGENCY'S DEMANDS

Hirsch disclosed that the Jewish Agency demanded that Sir Henry Gurney, Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government, take these immediate steps:

1. Issue an order withdrawing the British Army and police from the Jewish area of Jerusalem, with the exception of troops and police who need to be in Jewish areas on essential duties. They should, he added, be accompanied prominently by Jewish police personnel.
2. British personnel should be given orders to subject themselves to more thorough searches.
3. After the devastating blast, Jews in the street—among them known ruffians and a few minor injuries, although the whole house collapsed on top of the engine, which was of the heavy freighter type.

The District Attorney of Horgen, Mr. Walter Kunz, made it clear that the brakes had failed, but said it was still inexplicable since the train was equipped with a set of Westinghouse brakes, electric brakes and handbrakes.—United Press.

CRASHES INTO RAVINE

Paris, Feb. 22.—At least nine people were killed and 21 injured tonight when an autocar, returning to Lyons with a party of skiers from the winter sports resort of Vallotres, crashed far from the Italian frontier, crashed over the side of a ravine into a river. It skidded on ice near a bridge spanning the river and bumped into a tree before crashing over the edge.

Individual or even a small disorganised group of people all signs so far point to careful organisation and plotting behind this outrage.

He added: "The idea that the British are doing what they can to maintain law and order can now be blasted sky-high."

NO ARAB COMMENT

Up to mid-afternoon, no Arab statement had been made public. In any event, only officials of the Higher Arab Committee—and they are not in Jerusalem at the moment—would take the responsibility of commenting.

An unoccupied house, Jewish-owned, was destroyed by Arabs in the Jaffa-Tel Aviv No Man's Land today. There were no casualties in the operation. The house was demolished after an exchange of fire between Haganah and a combined force of British and Arab police, which was manning a road block astride the road to Jerusalem.

The firing, which lasted 40 minutes, did not result in any casualties.

In North Palestine, three Arab houses in the town of Samakh were blown up at dawn, touching off a 15-minute gun battle. No casualties were reported.—United Press.

29 SKIERS KILLED

Two Shocking Accidents

Waedenswil, Switzerland, Feb. 22.—A special ten-car ski train carrying 349 passengers crashed today at full speed into a three-storey apartment house, killing 20 persons and injuring 44.

The train rushed down a steep incline and roared past several red signals, with the engineer frantically yanking at the faulty brakes.

Just before the Waedenswil station, both tracks of which were occupied by other trains, the ski train was switched on to a sidetrack and smashed at 45 miles per hour into a house, which immediately collapsed. The locomotive went right through the building and the first three carriages were nearly completely destroyed. One dead passenger was still wedged among the debris and it has been decided it is impossible to remove him tomorrow.

The engineer miraculously escaped with shock and a few minor injuries, although the whole house collapsed on top of the engine, which was of the heavy freighter type.

The District Attorney of Horgen, Mr. Walter Kunz, made it clear that the brakes had failed, but said it was still inexplicable since the train was equipped with a set of Westinghouse brakes, electric brakes and handbrakes.—United Press.

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Nine bodies have so far been recovered.—Reuter.

Six-Engined Plane Crashes

Cherbourg, Feb. 22.—The body of an unidentified passenger from a missing French six-engined flying boat, known to have had 19 persons on board, was washed up on the Cherbourg beach tonight, the Cherbourg authorities confirmed.

A bag containing the plane's papers, a life-belt, a wing float, the back of a seat and a 30-foot long piece from the hull were also washed up.

Patrol ships, coastguards and police who have been looking for the plane suspended their search after dark tonight because of the heavy seas and a raging blizzard.

Unconfirmed reports said that another body had been picked up on the Normandy coast, southeast of Cherbourg.

A local man, who claimed that he saw the crash, said: "I was on the beach at about 2 p.m. yesterday afternoon when I saw an aeroplane which seemed to be in trouble."

"After a few moments I heard a muffled sound, followed immediately by an explosion. The plane had just come down in the water."—Reuter.

NEW BRITISH NAVY MAY BE IN MAKING

Experts' Blueprint Hints

London, Feb. 22.—British naval experts believe that behind the screen of recent Parliamentary storms and Government reticence on the apparent decline of the Royal Navy, Britain is working on a great blueprint by which she will again become mistress of the seas in the atomic age.

Protests by the Opposition Conservative Party on recent decisions to scrap capital ships have been fierce.

The Government has consistently refused, however, to provide figures on Britain's present naval strength and has been equally secretive about future plans.

But "The Navy", the magazine of the Royal Navy League, self-appointed watchdog of Britain's seapower, published this estimate of the present naval strength:

Battleships 11, aircraft carriers two, cruisers 11, destroyers four with the Home Fleet, 24 to 32 in the Mediterranean and the Pacific, submarines 12, sloops four, frigates 10. These estimates are thought to be fairly near the mark, although no official figures have been available since 1939 when the official "Return of the Fleet" was last published.

With the decision to scrap the battleships Nelson, Rodney, the Queen Elizabeth, Valiant and the battlecruiser Renown, Britain is actually left with five battleships—the Vanguard, Duke of York, King George V, Anson and Howe. But none of these is in operational service and all are immobilised.

The last two are being used as training ships.

When the second World War began, Britain had nine battleships, two battlecruisers, four aircraft carriers, 26 cruisers, 70 destroyers and 39 submarines.

According to unofficial estimates, therefore, it is true to say that never before in modern times has the sea-going strength of the Royal Navy been brought so low.

The Navy League goes further and declares angrily: "The British Navy today is completely powerless to maintain the national prestige, or to protect in any way the national home."

LATEST EXPERIMENT

Last night, Vice-Admiral D. C. Ford, Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet, held a press conference which received little attention.

He told correspondents of experiments in installing a gas turbine engine in a motor gunboat—making Britain the only country in the world with a vessel at sea incorporating this development—and declared: "We cannot tell where this invention is going to lead to, but I feel it may be the start of a new era, certainly at sea."

The next step, it is understood, will be to install gas turbines in a destroyer—thus bringing jet propulsion from the air and land to the water and opening up far-reaching possibilities of naval speed and manoeuvrability.

Such a development, applied to an entire fleet, would remove the Navy's great dependence on oil—fuel in war, and a headache also in Britain's financial crisis of today, when oil means dollars.

Many senior naval officers are believed to feel that the day of the battleship, as we know it is gone and that HMS Vanguard will be the last of her type to be built.

REASONS FOR SECRECY

In view of new inventions, the study of atomic energy, and experiments at present being carried out, it would obviously be a gigantic waste of money to rebuild Britain's depleted navy on out-of-date specifications.

Observers believe that this, and the fact that the Royal Navy is changing its entire tactical procedure to answer the atom bomb, is behind the official secrecy.

Some visualise the new British Navy, ultimately to emerge, as a great fleet of super fast, small and heavily armed ships able to operate over great distances.

They believe that the atom bomb has made impracticable the strategy of fighting sea battles with big concentrations of ships and that Britain will fight any future war at sea with a great new fleet of lone "atom raiders".—Reuter.

CIVIL WAR IN MANCHURIA

Nationalists Start A Counter-Attack

Nanking, Feb. 23.—Powerful Government units were reported last night to be striking out from Ying Kow, South Manchurian port, to counter-attack the Communists in South Liaoning in an attempt to offset the Government reverse at Anshan.

Strong Government reinforcements continued to be landed in the port of Yingkow, via the sea route and their arrival in Manchuria serves as a morale booster in an otherwise depressing situation, reports from Mukden said.

With the loss of Anshan, pro-Government reports claimed that Nationalist forces had exerted a "strategic price" from the Communists by making them pay highly for every inch of ground gained.

While admitting that the fall of Anshan was a serious Government setback, the reports say the fact that the Communists had employed four armies and suffered enormous casualties in their attacks made possible for Government troops to ward off other Communist thrusts to the northwest of Mukden, which is reported as no longer facing a Communist threat.

STEEL PLANT LOSS

The destruction of Manchuria's biggest steel plant, in the opinion of experts here, will make it necessary for the Government to shift heavy industries from the north-east to Central China.

As it is, attempts are being made to evacuate technicians who withdrew from Anshan with the Government forces and to re-employ them in the Government plants in China Proper.

Fresh Communist attacks were reported yesterday as being made

New Welfare Centre For Hongkong

Construction will begin this week on the first social welfare centre on Hongkong Island planned to combine the facilities of several relief organisations under one roof.

Financed by the Social Welfare Council, the one-storey building will be located on the grounds of the old Government Civil Hospital in Sai Ying-pun and will serve the whole of Hongkong until centres can be built in other districts.

In addition, there will be a large waiting room which can be used for different purposes by different relief societies, a well-equipped kitchen to prepare relief goods, an administration office, and shower rooms where any person may come to bathe. A clothes' washing room will be provided for women who haven't adequate facilities in their homes.

In the evenings, some of the rooms will be used to house a night school from 5 to 7 for the primary grades. Others will be used as meeting and game rooms for the Boys and Girls Club.

The centre will be staffed by two case workers from the Social Welfare Council, two night teachers from the Education Department, trained nurses from the SPC, two cooks, an office boy and a caretaker jack-of-

all-trades. In addition, volunteer workers from the various organisations will help in the planning and administration of the centre.

The Kowloon centre now handles approximately 1,000 cases each week and it is believed that the new Hongkong centre may be forced to take care of many more. The Social Welfare Council hopes that in the future it will be able to build similar centres in each of the other of Hongkong's districts.

The building itself will be constructed of brick and will be 114 feet long and 33 feet wide. At the front will be a small courtyard which may be used as a playing ground.

"The new scheme to amalgamate the various relief organisations under one roof will be a great economic saver in that the different societies can use the same rooms at different times of day," Miss C. H. Scott-Moncrieff, Secretary of the Social Welfare Council said.

"It will also solve the problem of critical office shortages and put closely related relief facilities in one central spot. In this way, too, needy cases can become familiar with a single centre and not be confused by having to visit different rooms in different buildings all over the city. All organisations should react closer co-operation and greater efficiency."

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JACK CARSON
HE NEVER
MADE GOOD
... BUT HE
MADE HER
VERY HAPPY

**ROUGHLY
SPEAKING**

Directed by
MICHAEL CURTIZ

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ANDREA KING - Screen Play by Louis Lomax - From the Book "Roughly Speaking"
Music by Jule Styne



"Surround the building, men! I've been robbed!"

New battle for Berlin

By Denis Martin

THE Soviet zone of Germany is in the grip of a political crisis which not only marks the climax to a two years' campaign to eliminate effective opposition to the Communists, but also heralds the era of the so-called "People's Congress for a Just Peace."

Nearly three years have passed since Marshal Zhukov issued his famous decree permitting the organization in Berlin and the Soviet Zone of four great political parties—the Social Democrats, the Communists, the Christian Democratic Union and the Liberal Democrats.

Today, the Communists emerge in the Russian zone with almost totalitarian power.

The independent leaders of the other three parties are in "exile" in Berlin, the last Eastern European stronghold of Social Democracy, for which a political struggle of the first order is now beginning.

First stage

THE first stage in the Communist conquest of power was reached as early as the autumn of 1946, when, by a forced fusion of the Social Democrats with the Communists, the Socialist Unity Party took over control of those parties in the Soviet zone.

Since the "Unity Party" is under Communist domination and the Social Democratic Party is denied any separate existence, the effective disposal of Social Democracy as a political force is complete.

To this end, and the next phase, the climax of opposition from the remaining two parties is a necessary to examine in detail the strange case of Jakob Kaiser, leader in Berlin and the Soviet zone of the powerful Christian Democratic Union.

The Communists had hoped, by the setting up of the People's Congress, to speak in the name of all Germans for a peace treaty and a united Reich, to capture the support of the Christian Democratic Union and the Liberal Democrats.

But the two chairmen of the C.D.U., Kaiser and Lemmer, backed by most of their executive officials, refused to associate their Party with the Congress.

The offence in Soviet eyes of a German Party declining to provide support for Mr. Molotov when he asked at the Council of Foreign Ministers that a delegation from the "representative" Congress should be heard, brought swift retribution.

Kaiser quits

A VIOLENT campaign against the two leaders caused so threatening a situation for the Christian Democrats that Kaiser and Lemmer discussed the issue in private with six Party representatives from the Soviet Zone.

At this meeting several of the provincial leaders suggested that the zonal organization might separate itself from the Berlin leadership, until Kaiser and Lemmer had ironed out their differences with the Russians.

Kaiser vigorously opposed this move, and the meeting broke up without any decision.

Next day the Russians seized on the suggestion made at the Conference and turned it into a resolution. They announced that, "in view of the decision of the zonal organizations to separate themselves, the Soviet military administration considers it necessary to state that from now onwards it regards these Germans as leading the party."

Kaiser, sent for by Colonel Tulpanov, the Russian Officer for Political Affairs, said he would not resign in view of the support he enjoyed, and added that the Russians themselves would have to sack him.

"No," replied Tulpanov. "This must be done democratically."

Editor resigns

THE face of democracy was saved by Tulpanov ordering the six zonal representatives to take over the affairs of the Union in the Russian zone.

On the night of December 20 another Russian officer, Captain Saslawski, telephoned Wilhelm Gries, chief editor of "New Time," the official Christian Democratic newspaper in Berlin.

He ordered Gries to delete from the paper a sentence pointing out that there were disagreements between Colonel Tulpanov and the six men ordered to lead the Union in the Soviet zone.

Gries and his deputy, Karl Branner, refused. The Russians found a more amenable editor in a matter of hours and the paper's circulation, cut by Russian orders to 50,000 copies daily, was restored to its original 100,000.

Kaiser had little difficulty in exposing the crudity of the Communist manoeuvre and announced that he still regarded himself as leader of the party in the zone. But no attention was paid to his argument that only a freely-convened and freely-voting Party Congress could decide on changes in its central administration.

Political prize

A SIMILAR fate has overtaken the much weaker Liberal Democratic Party, whose leaders in Berlin are still withstanding tremendous pressure to join the ranks of the People's Congress. But those leaders are now separated from the leadership of the Party in the Russian zone.

The eyes of Germany and the world now turn to Berlin.

It is not a coincidence that in Berlin—the only city of the Russian Zone which is not directly under Russian government—we have the one place in which the Socialist Unity Party has met with a dismal and catastrophic failure.

A departure of the Western Allies would certainly bring about a state of affairs where opposition could be "controlled" and the People's Congress could capture the glittering political prize of the German capital. For this reason 1948 will see one of the cardinal struggles of German political history—the fight for Berlin.

Fledgling Burma

seeks close ties with India

BY RONALD STEAD

(Staff Correspondent of the
Christian Science Monitor)

THE new sovereign republic of Burma is bound to be very closely associated with the subcontinent of India politically and otherwise.

This fact drew recognition in the colourful celebrations in New Delhi and elsewhere January 4 as sovereignty was transferred in Burma from British to Burmese authorities.

Perhaps the most impressive of these observances—which marked the first secession of territory from the British Empire since the American Declaration of Independence in 1776—was that held in Durbar Hall at New Delhi.

Tokens of Friendship

THE Burmese Ambassador presented his credentials to Earl Mountbatten of Burma, now Governor General of the Dominion of India; and the latter presented the Ambassador with the Inkathaposh, or small table, formerly belonging to King Theebaw of Burma and taken by the British from the Palace of Mandalay after the third Burmese War in 1885.

Trumpets blared. There was fanfare. The scene glittered with ceremonial uniforms which contrasted with the quietly picturesque Indian costumes.

Another trophy that is to be returned in due course as a token of friendship between India and Burma is the famous Huddart Throne erected in the Court House of Mandalay in 1856 and presented to the Indian Museum at Calcutta in 1902.

Earlier Rifts Erased

THIS gilded teakwood replica of King Theebaw's famous lion throne in the audience hall in Mandalay Palace weighs nearly three tons. It took two years to build. Earl Mountbatten has been invited to visit Burma in March, and his desire is then to make a formal presentation of the throne, which is to be dismantled in Calcutta and reassembled in Rangoon.

Great Britain's annexation of Burma happened after King Theebaw sought to secure French protection against possible British military attacks after his hostility to Britain had compelled his withdrawal from the British residency.

His arbitrary imposition of a fine upon the British Burma Trading Corporation for alleged breach of an agreement relative to teak exports, led to a British ultimatum requiring the case to be submitted to arbitration, and that Theebaw became dependent on the British crown.

The ruler rejected the demands. The initial campaign to conquer the monarch lasted only a fortnight, and Theebaw was deported to India, where he lived in exile until 1916.

But it took a British army of 30,000 men, mostly Indian troops, plunk is yours." "Seesaw," said Ashura sulkily.

Nothing much doing
"WHAT?" said the official. "Seesaw," repeated Rizzanughan. "How do you mean?" asked the official. "Seesaw," said Kazubah. "Why do you all keep on saying seesaw?" asked the official. The three Persians glowered, and remained silent. The official consulted the papers in front of him. "It says nothing here about leapfrog," he said. "Seesaw," shouted the three Persians. "Oh," said the official. "Seesaw." That explains the plunk. Why didn't you say so?"

The moment the Persians came into his room, he winked broadly, as much as to say, "We understand each other." The Persians, being devils for etiquette, and thinking it the right thing to do, winked back. Believing this to be an admission of villainy, the official leered at them. They leered back. Then the official said, "So you want to play leapfrog in public, eh? Well, why not?" But his eyes said, "Make it worth my while, and the new

five years to suppress the sporadic resistance which broke out throughout Burma.

As annexation proceeded, the placement system of government imposed was assimilated into that of India, and Burma became a part of the Indian Empire, which meant it was under basic control of the Government of India until 1937, when Burma became a separately administered territory under the British crown.

This occasioned establishment in London of the Burma Office as a sister department to the India office. Now the Burma Office has ceased to exist as the India office did on August 15, Britain's connection with Burma now is through the Foreign Office, since Burma has elected to leave the British Commonwealth and now stands on the same footing as any other foreign country outside the Empire group.

Burma's administrative severance from Britain therefore is complete, although new treaty obligations exist between the two countries. The dominions of India and Pakistan on the other hand exercise independence within the framework of the British Commonwealth until they decide to follow Burma's example and quit the Empire—if they do.

Indian Admiration

IN Burma as in India there was a steady re-orientation of nationalist aspirations and a campaign to realise them, before, during and after World War II. And "the consummation of Burma's struggle for freedom" has been the subject of admiring allusions by Indian leaders.

Said Sardar Patel, India's Deputy Prime Minister: "scarcely a century ago India and Burma have shared together the burden of a foreign yoke. The part which Indians have played in the economic affairs of Burma is considerable."

The future status and welfare of these half million or so Indians still resident in Burma in commerce, Government posts, agriculture, and other walks of life have been the subject of talks recently between the Indian Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and Burma's Thakin Nu, who discussed with a view to the future a treaty on the Indo-Burmese relationship.

Of this relationship Mr. Nehru says: "Not only our common sentiments demand it, but the whole trend of events in the world and in Asia point toward this closer association."

Formidable Tasks

MEANWHILE, Burma faces most formidable tasks of postwar reconstruction, against which have militated the breakdown of law, economic depression, political unrest, chronic depression, lack of consumer goods, and the lingering of British influence.

During the war Burma was a battlefield twice within three years and cities such as Rangoon and Mandalay were largely reduced to ruins.

I have been in Rangoon, and seen its war damage, the grinding poverty among the drab rattan shacks of roadside squatters in the heavily scarred city, the gleaming white Dagon pagoda—one of the wonders of the world with its gold-plated bell-like immensity rearing to a pinnacle 367 feet above the

shrine-laden base that is a quarter mile in circumference.

When I was there the homeless still were living in some of the shrines reached by a covered stairway, at the entrance of which is displayed a notice warning: "Foot-wearing forbidden."

Leaving my shoes in the car, I ascended to the immense plinth from which rises the solid pagoda, completed in 1564. The principal shrine is never opened to the public.

Latest available census figures show that of Burma's total population of nearly 17,000,000, about 13,000,000 are Buddhists.

It is a traditional part of every Burmese boy's upbringing that he should spend a part of his life in a monastery as a Buddhist priest, maybe only for a few months, maybe for years. But he is not considered mature until he has had this experience.

This explains why Burma's literacy ratio is higher than that of any other country in the Far East, and it is also considered that it may explain partly why the Burmese as a people are of contemplative rather than of industrious bent.

Burma derived its Buddhism from India, where this philosophy became reabsorbed in Hinduism, of which it was an offshoot.

Communists Alert

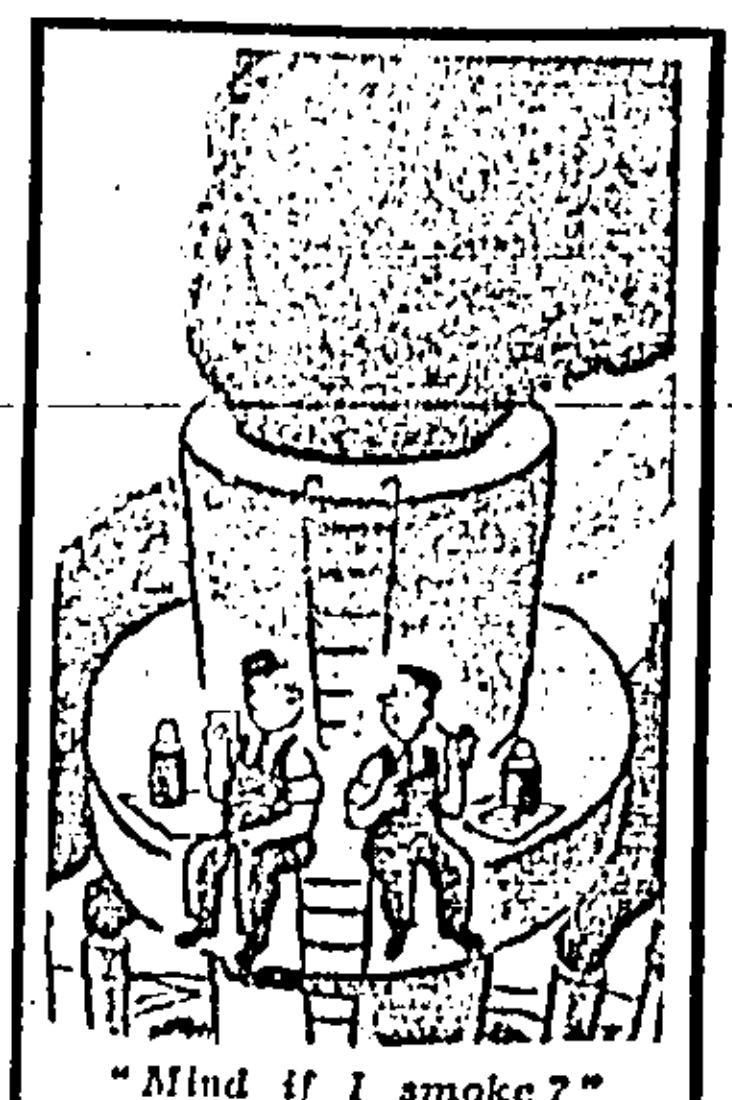
MORE than 1,000,000 inhabitants are Animists, and Hindus and Moslems number little more than half a million each. Christians are not greatly in excess of 250,000.

Burma is now a country specifically "a dominion and not entitled to His Majesty's protection," to cite the British official phraseology on the subject.

But the treaty with Britain was negotiated in the friendliest manner and has annexed to it a defence agreement stipulating that in return for Britain's renouncing its troops as soon as possible after January 4, Burma will receive a naval, military, and air force mission from Britain—and not of any government outside the Commonwealth.

The Communists in Burma are all set to make a big play for political power, which is pre-eminently held at present by the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League—shortly to be renamed—and in some places in central Burma Communists are declared to have established local "governments."

Burma is making it an early concern to raise an additional police force of 15,000 men, and to form a frontier constabulary, and striking arm to cope with the basic problem of banditry which has brought as many as a thousand recorded hold-ups and nearly two hundred murders in a single month.



BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

THE Filthistan Trio were next sent to an even more important fool in the Ministry of Bubbleblowing. He was one of those sly ruffians who try to ingratiate themselves by hinting that everybody is as unprincipled as themselves.

The moment the Persians came into his room, he winked broadly, as much as to say, "We understand each other." The Persians, being devils for etiquette, and thinking it the right thing to do, winked back. Believing this to be an admission of villainy, the official leered at them. They leered back. Then the official said, "So you want to play leapfrog in public, eh? Well, why not?" But his eyes said, "Make it worth my while, and the new

plunk is yours." "Seesaw," said Ashura sulkily.

Nothing much doing

"WHAT?" said the official. "Seesaw," repeated Rizzanughan. "How do you mean?" asked the official. "Seesaw," said Kazubah. "Why do you all keep on saying seesaw?" asked the official. The three Persians glowered, and remained silent. The official consulted the papers in front of him. "It says nothing here about leapfrog," he said. "Seesaw," shouted the three Persians. "Oh," said the official. "Seesaw." That explains the plunk. Why didn't you say so?"

undermate, please," said Ashura. "Oh," said the official disappointedly.

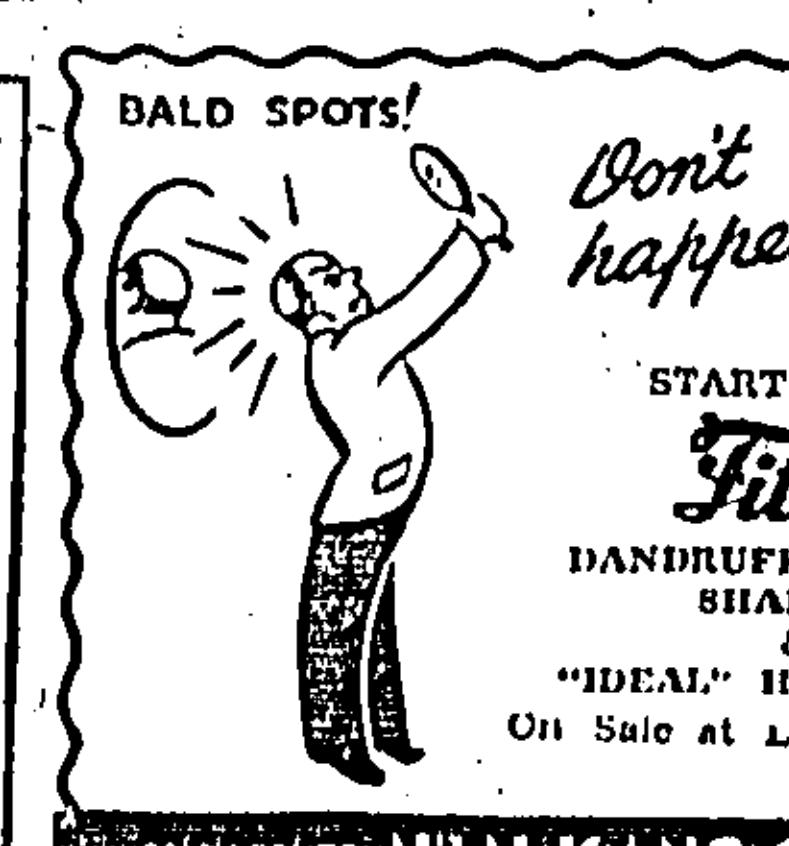
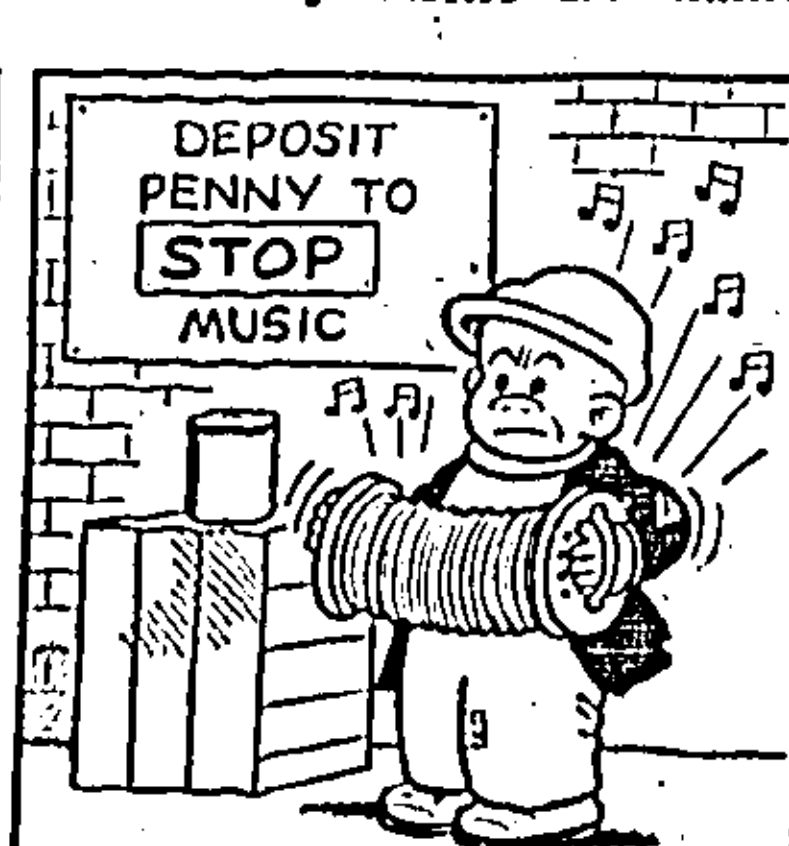
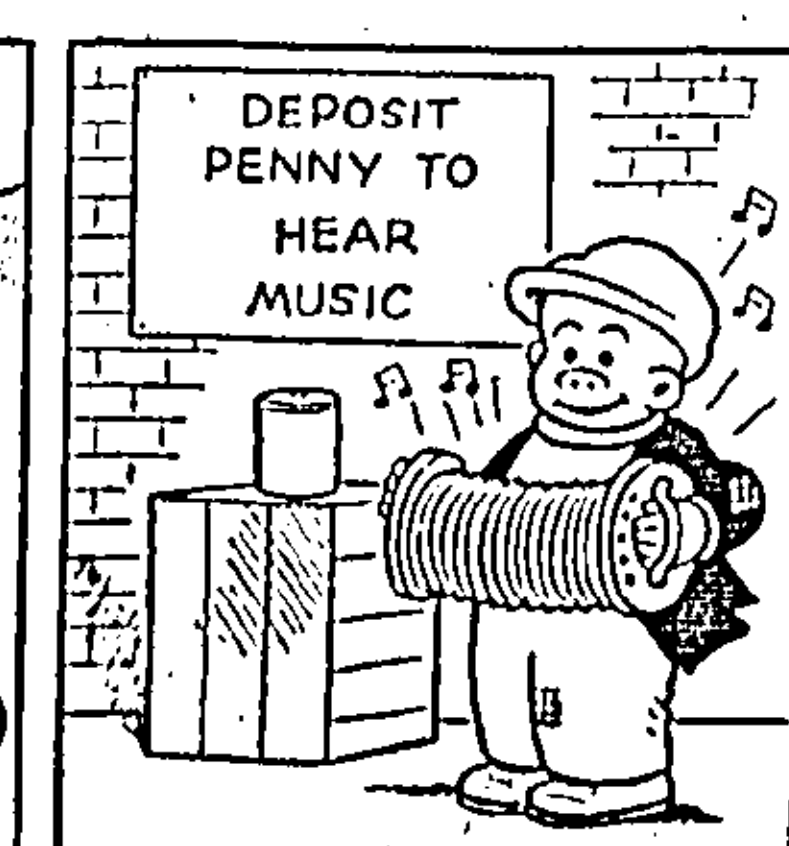
"Waiter, my compliments to the chemist."

I WAS amused the other day to hear some one described as a "dreadful gourmet." I suppose such a phrase today is applied to a man who insists on having his tinned Arabian egg done to a turn, and will drink nothing with it but real Burgundy from the Gold Coast.

Wolf in the honeysuckle

The icedrop of cold thought. O Has frozen the warm heart To a senseless stone. All that imagination bought In experience's mart Is pared down to the bone. They grin as they go by On the road to Eternity. (L. H. Trimm.)

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CIVIL WAR IN YEMEN

Cairo, Feb. 22.—Abdel Rahman Azzam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League, said tonight that a state of civil war exists in Yemen following the death of the kingdom's 82-year-old monarch.

The League, an organisation of Middle East countries, is taking precautions to prevent any possible foreign intervention, he said.

A two-man delegation left for Yemen this morning to investigate the situation. The League will send a second delegation soon to the Arabian desert kingdom to advise the new government.

—Associated Press.

WALLACE OBJECTS TO CHINA AID

Washington, Feb. 22.—The Presidential aspirant, Henry A. Wallace, asserting that the United States is now so deeply engaged in direct military intervention in China's civil war that American bases were established in Tsingtao and Formosa, blasted at the Administration's \$570,000,000 China aid programme as a "war-provoking extension of the Marshall plan to Asia."

Labelling the aid plan as "one more phase in our financial and military intervention there," Wallace said: "The situation in China is a tragic proof of the inevitable failure of our foreign policy. The sending of money and supplies to bolster a reactionary government against the will of the people serves the cause of reaction and war but not democracy and peace."

Wallace urged the people and Congress to reject the war-provoking China programme presented by President Truman, and called instead for all possible aid to the "Chinese people through the United Nations, such aid to be given once peace is established so that reconstruction is possible."

He said the first step towards peace "must be the withdrawal of all financial and military intervention in China's internal fights."

Wallace said that the principal group which stood to benefit from the aid programme is the "Wall Street group which controls large areas of Chinese economy."

Wallace claimed: "The President's contention that the new \$570,000,000 programme represents purely civilian economic aid is exploded by his own words that it will permit the Chinese Government to devote limited dollar resources to other ends."

He continued: "I do not believe that the American people want any part of this scheme. I do not believe they would have approved direct military intervention in China's civil war in which we have already engaged."—United Press.

Truman In Virgin Islands

St Thomas Island, Virgin Islands, Feb. 22.—President Truman arrived here today for his Caribbean holiday. He was accompanied by Mr. Julius Krug, the Secretary of the Interior.—Reuter.

Globe-Circling Businessmen Expected Here Wednesday

Ten American businessmen are due to land at Kai Tak on Wednesday on a globe-circling flight which will include nearly thirty countries and scores of cities. The group expects to be in Hongkong until Friday, when they will leave for Shanghai. During their stay the visitors will meet government officials and leading businessmen.

The American party is travelling in the "Atlas Sky Merchant," a Douglas DC-4 plane specially fitted for the 100-day trip which began at Miami, Florida on January 12. The plane is scheduled to complete its 45,000-mile journey at New York in late April.

The visit to Hongkong has been arranged with the aid of Standard Vacuum Oil Company, several of whose representatives are accompanying the Atlas party.

To date, the Sky Merchant has stopped in Recife, Monrovia, Leopoldville, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Nairobi, Khartoum, Cairo, Baghdad, New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Travancore, Colombo, Ceylon, Bangkok and Saigon. After leaving Hongkong it will continue to Shanghai, Nanking, Peiping, Tokyo, Manila, Singapore, Penang, Batavia, Palembang, Darwin, Melbourne, Sydney and Auckland before returning to the United States via Honolulu and San Francisco.

Equipped to carry 10 passengers and crew of seven on its trip around the world, the Atlas plane also has on board product displays covering the Atlas Company's line of automotive and aviation accessories. The plane can be turned into a small theatre, complete with 16 mm. sound film equipment, for on-the-plane training of local representatives in areas where Atlas products are now available to the public.

Two-way radio telephone equipment permits passengers in the plane to talk with people on the ground

Palestine No Longer In Sterling Area

London, Feb. 22.—Palestine ceases to be a part of the sterling area at midnight because of the approaching end of the Palestine mandate, which Britain is to relinquish on May 15, it was officially announced here today.

The sterling balances of Palestine have been blocked, but the British Government will make available, during the remaining period of the mandate and subsequently, the resources which it is satisfied are necessary.

A Treasury announcement said today: "For immediate requirements, £7,000,000 are being released in order to provide £4,000,000 as working balances for the banks in Palestine and £3,000,000 to be used, together with current accruals of sterling which will be at Palestine's disposal, for current expenditure until the middle of May."

Giving reasons for these moves, the Treasury statement, which coincided with a similar announcement from the Palestine Government in Jerusalem, said Palestine was the holder of sterling balances totalling £100,000,000.

These balances had been drawn on rapidly in recent months so that the resources of Palestine, which would be needed for the development of the country, were in danger of being unduly depleted and the balance of payments problem of the sterling area was aggravated.

To Stop The Drain

"As in the case of other countries holding large balances, for example, India, Egypt and Iraq, the Government said 'the only way in which the drain can be stopped is by blocking the greater part of the balances'."

The announcement declared the British Government was resolved to use all its power to prevent damage to the financial and economic structure of Palestine during the period of its withdrawal.

The Treasury also stated that "owing to the fact that Palestine currency is also the currency of Transjordan, it is technically impossible for Transjordan to remain in the sterling area when Palestine leaves it, and arrangements are being made accordingly, in agreement between the two governments."

"The Transjordan Government has, however, informed the British Government that it intends to make such currency and exchange arrangements as will enable Transjordan to return to the sterling area."

Same Position As Egypt

Palestine's departure from the sterling area means that she will be in the same position as Egypt, a country whose currency is backed by sterling and does most of its trade in sterling but is not a member of the sterling area, writes Sydney Gampell, Reuter's Financial Editor.

This step has obviously become necessary at the present phase of Britain's withdrawal from Palestine. The essence of membership of the sterling area is exchange control on all transfers to countries outside the sterling area.

The state has obviously now been reached where Britain cannot operate an efficient exchange control in Palestine, and there is as yet no successor authority which could, in the interim, at least, Palestine thus leaves the sterling area.

Jewish Agency Opinion

Mr A. Kaplan, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, told Reuter in Jerusalem today that the Agency was not surprised at the Palestine Government's decision to place the country outside the sterling area.

"The Agency was considering what steps to take," Mr Kaplan said the

decision should not give rise to any panic in Palestine.

He declared that it was difficult to believe the mandatory government would do such a thing without consulting representatives of the inhabitants of the country and without obtaining the agreement of the United Nations Palestine Commission.

Describing the decision as a one-sided action, Mr Kaplan said Palestine's sterling balances, which were now blocked, had resulted in an influx of Jewish capital into the country from abroad totalling over £70,000,000 since the war.

The aim of the British Government, he added, was to get millions of pounds out of the country and to make Palestine poorer instead of safeguarding her economic and financial power as the Government had stated.—Reuter.

THREE-POWER CONFERENCE:

MERGER OF FRENCH ZONE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE

London, Feb. 22.—An air of uncertainty about purpose and scope hangs over the three-power conference on the future of Germany, which opens in London tomorrow. Official pronouncements from London and Washington made it plain that this conference, which is being held in secret, will not take final decisions. Its conclusions will be referred back to the governments concerned.

COMMUNIST CONGRESS IN BRITAIN

London, Feb. 22.—Only a "change in policy and a new government can save Britain from economic collapse," Harry Pollitt, General Secretary of the British Communist Party, told delegates at the second session of the party's annual congress here today.

The Government's economic policy could not solve the present problems, he said. They put increased production as the principal remedy "in order to cover up their anti-working class policy as a whole."

Arthur Horner, Secretary of the National Mineworkers' Union, described as a "foul lie" the allegation that the party was opposed to increased production.

"We shall not sabotage production," he said. "I say—and I challenge the Labour Party to deny it—that the force most responsible for the production drive has been the Communist Party."

W. Rust, a member of the National Executive and editor of the Communist daily paper, The Daily Worker, told the congress that when he gave evidence to the Royal Commission on the press, he informed them that "in the opinion of the Communist Party, Mr Churchill was nothing but a blood-thirsty creature and warmonger No. 1."

The Communists stood for the co-existence of capitalism and socialism, but could not retreat before the threat of imperialism. That was why M. Molotov so often said "No UNO" at international conferences.

The congress concludes tomorrow.—Reuter.

Shanghai Food Rationing

Shanghai, Feb. 22.—The overall food rationing plan drafted to combat the growingly serious rice "rush" will be enforced throughout Shanghai, beginning March 1, the Commissioner of Social Affairs, Mr Wu Kai-hsien, declared last night.

Despite the shortage of rice and the lack of workable ration system in the city, Mr Wu gave the assurance that the Government will supply the necessary amount of cereals to the market in order to carry out the ration plan successfully.

Meanwhile, at a meeting yesterday the National Food Dealers' Association unanimously agreed that many of the Government's measures in connection with the cereal question must be amended, or abolished, before food supply conditions can be improved.

He demanded: Firstly, cereal taxes be abolished; secondly, free transportation of cereals throughout the country be guaranteed; thirdly, repressive measures on different rice markets be lifted.—Reuter.

Held-Up Students Injured By Stones

The two students, Pak On-fai (19) and Kwok Shu-chung (20), who were attacked by robbers on the Peak on Saturday, received face lacerations from stones thrown by the highwaymen. Both were taken to Queen Mary to be bandaged but were not detained.

The robbers, who were successfully repelled by the students, escaped without any loot and have not yet been arrested, the Peak Police Station said this morning.



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Insulting Words From Gen Kurasov

Vienna, Feb. 22.—British and American diplomatic representatives walked out of the Hall of Vienna's Music Union this afternoon in protest against the insulting remarks by the Soviet Commander-in-Chief, Colonel-General Vladimir Kurasov.

General Kurasov was speaking in the presence of the Austrian Chancellor, Dr. Leopold Figl, and representatives of most of the Legations in the city.

Without mentioning Britain or the United States by name, he declared that "imperialist powers" had subverted Hitler and were now spending millions of dollars to foster another war.

The British Charge D'Affaires, Mr N. J. Cheetham, said afterwards: "General Kurasov's remarks seemed to me so insulting to my country that I got up and walked out of the room. Mr. Molin, representing the United States Legation, followed me."

A meeting of the Austro-Soviet Cultural and Economic Society was being held to celebrate "Red Army Day."—Reuter.

Ready For Battle

Berlin, Feb. 22.—The Soviet Army, equipped with "first class arms," now "is in constant readiness for battle" to preserve the democratic principles of Communism, the official Russian newspaper, Tselische Rundschau, said today.

In a page one editorial, the paper said: "The victorious Soviet Army is the loyal guardian of the Soviet Union and of durable peace, and is always in constant readiness for battle."

"Between a wish of imperialists to start a new war and their ability to carry such a war through is a large gap of forces for peace so strong that new aggressors will face a pitiful debacle."

It praised the Russian Army's first class arms and its progressive military and scientific development.

Warmongers Warned

The editorial appeared in an eight-page edition devoted to the Red Army and its fight for liberation "from the imperialistic yoke."

The newspaper featured pictures showing large Russian "Katiuska" guns firing and armament works in the Urals.

It warned warmongers they must realise their "criminal intentions" will result in their sharing the fate of Hitler and his collaborators.

The Russian-licensed Berliner Zeitung commented that the Soviet Army was the "most decisive factor for insuring peace." It added that there was no power which could match the Soviet Army and said it was a mistake to underestimate its strength.—United Press.

PROBE INTO FATAL PRIZE FIGHT

Chicago, Feb. 22.—Two investigations into the prize fight in which light-heavyweight Sam Baroudi suffered fatal injuries are under way today and are expected to lead to a complete probe of boxing in Chicago.

A blue ribbon jury was instructed by Coroner A. L. Brodie to make a thorough investigation of Baroudi's death.

Assistant State Attorney Dan Ryan announced he would direct a second investigation.

Meanwhile, Edward Charles, the Cincinnati negro who injured Baroudi last week, was released from a technical charge of manslaughter on a \$5,000 bond.—United Press.

KRAMER BEATS RIGGS

Oakland, California, Feb. 22.—Jack Kramer defeated Bobby Riggs 6-1, 6-4 to take a 19 to 15 edge in their trans-continental professional tennis tour.

Australian Dinny Pails defeated Chilean Panchito Segura 12-10.—United Press.

INVITATION TO FIANNA FAIL

Cork, Eire, Feb. 22.—Fianna Fail, the party of Mr Eamon de Valera, defeated in the recent Primrose election after 16 years of office, was today invited to join Eire's new Coalition Government by the Minister for Defence, Dr E. F. O'Higgins.

The Coalition of the Fine Gael, Farmers, New Republicans, National Labour and Independents command 75 seats in the new Dail (Parliament) to the 60 seats held by Fianna Fail with three Independent supporters.

"What is the good of sulking and trying to undermine the foundations of the new Ireland?" Dr O'Higgins asked Fianna Fail. "A really National Government has been formed and its strength does not depend on the number of tied men, marshalled and regimented, but on the broadness of its formation, the number of elements represented, and the wholehearted desire of all sections in the Government to leave Ireland better than they found it."—Reuter.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers
1. Bez, 2. Kate Smith. An uncharacteristic peak in southern Venezuela was named Kate Smith Mountain by Captain Basil L. Rowe, 3. October 28, 1922, 4. Richard Roe in 1840, 5. Haiti and the Dominican Republic, 6. Penguin.

DENIAL BY NANKING

Shanghai, Feb. 22.—American press reports circulated in Shanghai yesterday alleging that a Soviet official stationed in Shanghai has offered himself as intermediary to mediate in the Chinese civil war, and that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has given consent to reopen peace negotiations between "the Government and the Communists," were categorically denied by a spokesman of the Chinese Government late last night.

"The rumour is absolutely unfounded, apparently designed to disturb public mind in the midst of the bandit suppression campaign," the spokesman said.—Reuter.

FOOD FROM DENMARK TO COST MORE

Copenhagen, Feb. 22.—Denmark is to send Britain butter, bacon and eggs, but at considerably higher prices, under a new trade agreement announced today by the Danish Foreign Office.

In exchange Britain will deliver to Denmark minimum quantities of British exports, including coal, iron and steel.

Under the agreement, Denmark will be able to use sterling for certain payments outside the sterling bloc, for example, to buy nitrogen fertilisers from Chile.

Trade talks between the two countries had been going on ever since last September. They broke down over Danish food prices and then over British deliveries.

Denmark will deliver to Britain 80 percent of her exportable surplus of bacon.—Reuter.

Initiating This Week

London, Feb. 22.—Commenting on today's announcement by the Danish Foreign Office that a British-Danish trade agreement had been reached, a Treasury official said tonight: "It is expected that the text will be initiated by the two governments later this week, when full details by both governments will be made."—Reuter.

OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, registered articles and parcel posts close 30 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. If mail close before 10 a.m., registered and parcels will close at 5 p.m. the previous day.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Air: Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Canton, Hanoi, Kuning, Hsinchow, Swatow and Fuzhou. Closing Times by Sea and Train: Amoy, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 2 p.m. Canton (Sea) 2 p.m. Manila, Colombo, Bombay and Karachi (Sea) 2 p.m. Hanoi (Sea) 2 p.m. Amoy, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m. Hongkong (Sea) 5 p.m. Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Closing Times by Air: Amoy 9 a.m. (reg.), 9:30 a.m. (ord.), Shanghai 9 a.m. (reg.), 9:30 a.m. (ord.), Bangkok, Hongkong, Calcutta, Karachi, Bahrain, Cairo, Madras, Johannesburg, London (Kowloon C.P.O.) 3 p.m. (G.P.O.) 3:30 p.m. Amoy and Canton via Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Swatow 3:30 p.m. Closing Times by Sea and Train: Canton (Train) 7 a.m. Amoy, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 8 a.m. Manila (Sea) 10 a.m. Saigon (Sea) 10 a.m. Hongkong and Peking (Sea) 10 a.m. Amoy, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 10 a.m. South America via San Francisco (No Parcels for Canada) 3 p.m.

ZBW BROADCAST

11.15 p.m. Studio: Hospital Request Half Hour presented by Ethel Holmes. Brown, 6:20. Heinz Hubert and His Orchestra, 6:45. Studio: Jill Lapper Talks on Films, 7. London Relay: World and Home News, 7:15. Studio: "The What I Do" programme by Jill Goward, 7:45. B.B.C. Transcription Service: "The Old Record Changers." The Faithful Shepherd (First London Philharmonic Orchestra (First performance over ZBW), 8:55. Interlude: London Relay, News, 9:10. Weather Report, 9:11. Studio: A Talk—"You and Your Camera" by K. A. Watson, "Films, Silents and Gaudy," 9:25. Studio: Piano Recital by Clara Stanfield, 9:45. London Relay: "What is Art For—For Beauty." A discussion between Eric Newton and James Stevens, 10. London Relay: Radio News, 10:15. "Something for Everybody," 11. Close down.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the day of publication is required for all commercial display advertisements, change of copy etc. Notices will be received up till 4.30 p.m. for the following day.

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